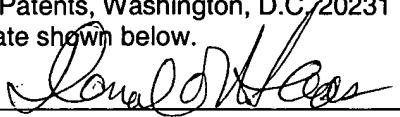


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Donald F. Haas

Date: April 2, 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the accompanying application of)

CHARLES L. EDWARDS, KIRK H. RANEY,)
and PAUL G. SHPAKOFF)

Serial No. 10/679,126)

Filed October 3, 2003)

BRANCHED PRIMARY ALCOHOL)
COMPOSITIONS AND DERIVATIVES)
THEREOF)

Group Art Unit: 1621

Examiner: Jean F. Vollano

April 2, 2004

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

The following amendment and remarks are submitted in response to the restriction requirement of March 18, 2004 to fix certain antecedent basis problems which were discovered in the amended claims during the review of that restriction requirement.